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Parliamentarians for East Timor

244A Upper Street, London N1 1RU

From Lord Avebury

1988 December 16

Dear colleague,

In June this year, Tony Lamb, Member of the House of Representatives, Australia, Satsuki Eda, Member of the Japanese Diet, and I set up a new organisation, Parliamentarians for East Timor, to act as an international lobbying forum to support the people of East Timor in securing their right to self-determination.

In the past few months, parliamentarians in Australia and the USA have taken important initiatives on behalf of the people of East Timor. Special parliamentary East Timor forums already exist in Portugal, Japan and Australia. In September this year, the European Parliament overwhelmingly adopted a resolution supporting the demand for self-determination in East Timor.

It is clear that parliamentarians have an important part to play in keeping the issue of East Timor on the international agenda. Hence, there is a need for coordinated action by parliamentarians from as many countries as possible.

I take pleasure in inviting you to join our new organisation. You can do so by signing the attached Declaration which we decided to use as our founding document. You may already have signed the Declaration in 1985. Whether or not this is so, please sign it now to become inscribed as a member.

Please return this form to me as soon as possible. I hope to be able to make an announcement early in February next year about the degree of support for this important initiative.

Yours sincerely,

Avebury

Founder Members
Satsuki Eda MHR (Japan), Tony Lamb MHR (Australia), Lord Avebury (UK)
Secretary: Carmel Budiardjo

Parliamentarians for East Timor

I, the undersigned,

Recognising that the territory of East Timor has been illegally occupied by Indonesia since December 1975, inflicting extreme loss of life and destruction;

Recognising that Indonesia's policy to isolate East Timor restricts the I.C.R.C. and other relief and development agents in their efforts to reach those in need, and denies the international community opportunities to assess the wishes of the people independently;

Condemning the human rights violations committed since 1975, as reported by Church leaders in East Timor and by independent human rights organisations;

Recognising that the East Timorese have been denied their right to self-determination;

Welcoming, finally, U.N. General Assembly Resolution 37/30 which asked the U.N. Secretary-General "to initiate consultations with all parties directly concerned, with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement of the problem", and acknowledging the steps which have been taken to bring Portugal and Indonesia into negotiations;

AFFIRM that negotiations will not lead to a just settlement unless they

1. Involve representatives of the East Timorese people including those who resist the present occupation,
2. Secure an end to hostilities which prevent the people of East Timor and their representatives from contributing freely to negotiations leading to self-determination,
3. Provide internationally-acceptable conditions of access to relief and development agencies and to independent visitors, journalists and diplomats, and
4. Include an act of self-determination, which is free from interference and verified by international observers acceptable to the East Timorese people,

COMMEND all international initiatives which observe these principles, and will call upon my Government to support actively a process of negotiation conducted on such terms,

AND HEREBY DECLARE myself a member of Parliamentarians for East Timor.

Name (block letters):
Address (block letters):

Date:

Kindly return this to:
Parliamentarians for East Timor, 244 Upper Street, London N1 1RU, or fax it to London 359-0017.